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Christopher W. Kennerly, Esq.
Baker Botts L.L.P.
Suite 600
2001 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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2672

13

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,603

Applicant(s)

YABLONSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 9/04/2003 has been entered. Claims 1-12 have been canceled. Claims 13-45 have been newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 13, 15-18, 21-23, 24, 26-29, 32-34, 35, 37-40, 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Strasnick et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5,861,885 (hereafter Strasnick).

3. Claim 13:

Strasnick teaches a system for display graphical information related to a supply chain

(See the abstract; figure 13; column 6), comprising:

A database operable to store data associated with the supply chain (column 7); and

A graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the database and operable to (e.g., column 7 and 8):

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Display a graph comprising a plurality of axes (e.g., figures 1-7; column 1), a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension (e.g., column 6 and 7) comprising:

A plurality of levels each comprising one or more members (column 7); and

A parent member in a first level (column 7) being related to one or more child members in a second level through a predetermined hierarchical relationship such that supply chain data for the parent member in the first level represents an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members in the second level and such that supply chain data for the one or more related child members in the second level represents a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member in the first level (column 7 and 8);

In response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 8), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the one or more members in the first level (column 8), at least one member in the first level being the parent member having the one or more related child members in the second level and representing an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (column 7 and 8); and

In response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 8), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the one or more members in the second level, one or more members in the second level being the one or more related child members of the parent member in the first level and representing a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member (column 7 and 8).

Claim 15:

The claim 15 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy; each of a plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region; and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a seller dimension associated with a seller hierarchy (column 6-8); each of a plurality of members in the first level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding geographic region (column 7); and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the seller hierarchy representing all sellers within a corresponding sub-region of a region represented by a member in the first level (column 8).

Claim 16:

The claim 16 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of a plurality of members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level.

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However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a product dimension associated with a product hierarchy; each of a plurality of members in the first level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding product category; and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the product hierarchy representing all products associated with a corresponding sub-category of a product category represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 17:

The claim 17 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of a plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the first dimension comprising a time dimension associated with a time hierarchy; each of a plurality of members in the first level of the time hierarchy representing all times with a corresponding time period; and each of a plurality of members in the second level of the time hierarchy representing all times within a corresponding sub-period of a time period represented by a member in the first level (column 22).

Claim 18:

The claim 18 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular

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member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the GUI operable to, in response to selection of a particular member of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the selected particular member (column 8 and 10).

Claim 21:

The claim 21 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of “receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection.”

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of receiving a filter selection specifying a particular member within a level for which a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member is not to be displayed on the graph; and in response to receiving the filter selection and selection of a level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis, display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for each member in the selected level other than the particular member specified in the filter selection (column 8 and 20).

Claim 22:

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 21 except additional claimed limitation of “displaying a window indicating the particular member specified in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member.”

However, Strasnick further discloses the claim limitation of displaying a window indicating the particular member specified in the filter selection, and in response to selection the particular member displayed in the window, display on the first axis of the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the particular member in addition to the graphical representation of supply chain data for the other members in the level of the particular member (column 8 and 20).

Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension.

However, Strasnick further discloses the claimed limitation of the graph comprising three axes, each axis associated with a dimension of the supply chain, each dimension of supply chain data being associated with a predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the dimension (e.g., figure 1; column 1 and 3).

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4. Claim 24:

The claim 24 is a re-phrasing of the claim 13 in a method form. The claim 13 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 26-29:

The claims 26-29 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-18.

Claim 32-34:

The claims 32-34 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-23.

5. Claim 35:

The claim 35 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 13.

Claims 37-40:

The claims 37-40 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 15-18.

Claims 43-45:

The claims 43-45 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 21-23.

6. Claim 46:

The claim 46 is subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 14, 19-20, 25, 30-31, 36, 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strasnick U.S. Patent No. 5,861,885 (hereinafter Strasnick).

Claim 14:

The claim 14 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 13 except additional claimed limitation of “a second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data”.

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together and the vertical or Y dimension of the displayed data objects may be compressed as well. Strasnick therefore suggests a second axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data similar to the first axis for displaying the hierarchical levels of information associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data (column 16).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the second axis of the graph being associated with a second dimension of the supply chain data into the Strasnick's invention to provide multidimensional manipulation of hierarchical levels of the supply chain data.

Claim 19:

The claim 19 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the selected particular member".

However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together and displayed objects being displayed in altered or shrunken perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the "display on the graph only" into the Strasnick's invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claim 20:

The claim 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 18 except additional claimed limitation of "the GUI operable to display on the graph only the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member of each non-selected member of the first level."

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However, Strasnick further discloses the layout of the cell hierarchy in a tree structure wherein horizontal dimension to enable more visible objects to appear on the display simultaneously together using different perspective (column 16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the “display on the graph the graphical representation of the supply chain data for the parent member” into the Strasnick’s invention to provide a different form of navigator viewing of the hierarchical level of the supply chain data.

Claims 25, 30-31:

The claims 25 and 30-31 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Claims 36, 41-42:

The claims 36 and 41-42 are subject to the same rationale of rejection set forth in the claims 14 and 19-20.

Remarks

9. Applicant’s arguments, filed 09/04/2003, paper number 12, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

10. Applicant argues in essence with respect to the new claim 13 and similar claims that:

“In contrast, new independent Claim 13 recites... As the above discussion makes clear, Davies fails to disclose, teach, or suggest these limitations. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request consideration and allowance of new independent Claim 13, together with all claims that depend from independent Claim 13.”

This is not found persuasive because Strasnick teaches a system for display graphical information related to a supply chain (See the abstract; figure 13; column 6), comprising:
A database operable to store data associated with the supply chain (column 7); and
A graphical user interface (GUI) coupled to the database and operable to (e.g., column 7 and 8):

Display a graph comprising a plurality of axes (e.g., figures 1-7; column 1), a first axis being associated with a first dimension of the supply chain data, the first dimension for the first axis being associated with a first predetermined hierarchical arrangement of supply chain data for the first dimension (e.g., column 6 and 7) comprising:

A plurality of levels each comprising one or more members (column 7); and
A parent member in a first level (column 7) being related to one or more child members in a second level through a predetermined hierarchical relationship such that supply chain data for the parent member in the first level represents an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members in the second level and such that supply chain data for the one or more related child members in the second level represents a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member in the first level (column 7 and 8);

In response to selection of the first level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 8), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the one or more members in the first level (column 8), at least one member in the

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first level being the parent member having the one or more related child members in the second level and representing an aggregation of supply chain data for the one or more related child members (column 7 and 8); and

In response to selection of the second level for display of supply chain data with respect to the first axis (column 8), display on the graph a graphical representation of supply chain data for the one or more members in the second level, one or more members in the second level being the one or more related child members of the parent member in the first level and representing a disaggregation of supply chain data for the parent member (column 7 and 8).

Therefore, Strasnick fulfills the new claim 13 as currently drafted.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6606 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 395-3900.

jcw
December 9, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600